

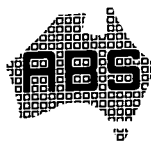
YEAR BOOK

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CONTENTS

	Page
GENERAL INFORMATION	xi
PREFACE	xiii
CHAPTER 1. FROM PRE-HISTORY TO FEDERATION	1
Early knowledge and discovery of Australia (3); The annexation of Australia (4); The exploration of Australia (4); The establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia (7); The external Territories of Australia (8); The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia (9).	
<i>Plates—1, Map of Australia (frontispiece); 2 and 3, Exploration (10-11).</i>	
CHAPTER 2. CLIMATE AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIA	13
General description of Australia (15); Position and area (15); Land forms (15); Climate (17); Climatic controls (17); rainfall (17); temperature (24); frost (28); humidity (28); sunshine, cloud and fog (32); global radiation (33); evaporation (33); winds (35); floods (38); droughts (28); climatic discomfort (39); climatological tables (40).	
<i>Plates—4-9, Rainfall (18-22); 10, Thunderdays (24); 11-15, Temperatures (25-27); 16-19, Humidity (30-31); 20-21, Evaporation (34-35); 22-25, Wind roses (36-37); 26 Drought Incidence (39).</i>	
CHAPTER 3. GENERAL GOVERNMENT	49
Parliamentary government (51); The Sovereign (51); The Governor-General (51); Governors (52); The Cabinet and executive government (52); Ministries (52); Parliaments and elections (55); Referendums (59); Outlay on parliamentary government (60); Commonwealth government departments (61); Enactments of the parliaments (61).	
CHAPTER 4. DEFENCE	63
Current defence policy (65); Higher defence organisation (65); Higher defence machinery (66); Equipment for the defence force (67); Defence manpower (68); Defence co-operation (70); Defence representation overseas (70); Defence force activities overseas (70); Royal Australian Navy (70); Australian Army (71); Royal Australian Air Force (73); Defence science and technology (74); Natural Disasters Organisation (75); Defence production functions of Department of Productivity (76).	
<i>Plates—27, Personnel strengths of the permanent defence force (68); 28, Personnel strengths of the reserve force (69).</i>	
CHAPTER 5. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	79
Relations with—the Great Powers (81), Asia and the Pacific (81-82), New Zealand (82), Western Europe (82), Indian Ocean (82), Canada (82), Caribbean and Latin America (82), Other countries (83), United Nations (83); The Commonwealth (83); Nuclear issues (83); Disarmament and arms control (83); Law of the Sea (84); Antarctica (84); Consular activities (84); Cultural relations (84); Treaties (84); Australia's official development assistance to developing countries (84); Diplomatic representation overseas (87); Australian missions overseas (87); Diplomatic representation to Australia (88).	

	PAGE
CHAPTER 6. DEMOGRAPHY	89
Population—the population census (91), Estimates (92), Size and growth (92), Projections (93), Location (95), General characteristics (96), The Aboriginal population (100), Internal migration (101); Vital statistics (102), Births and fertility (103), Mortality (108), Life expectancy (111), Marriages (112), Divorce (114); International movements (116), Migration to Australia (118), Refugees (122), Citizenship (122).	
<i>Plate—29, Age pyramid of the population, 1978 (99).</i>	
CHAPTER 7. PRICES	125
Retail prices and price indexes—Consumer Price Index (127), Previous retail price indexes (131), Wholesale price indexes (132), Price index of materials used in house building (132), Price index of materials used in building other than house building (133), Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry (134), Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry (135); Export price indexes—revised (136); Previous wholesale price indexes (144); Prices Justification Tribunal (145); Household Expenditure Surveys (147).	
CHAPTER 8. MANPOWER	149
The labour force—the population census (151), The population survey (151), The labour force survey (151), Population survey reports (161); Job vacancies (161); Civilian employees (162); Industrial conciliation and arbitration (165); Rates of wage (166); Standard hours of work (170); Evening and night work (170); Male average weekly earnings (170); Surveys of income, earnings and hours (171); Earnings and hours of employees, May 1979 (171); Earnings and hours, October 1978 (distribution and composition) (177); Weekly earnings of employees (distribution), August 1978 (179); Income distribution, 1973-74 (183); Annual leave and long service leave (183); Industrial disputes (183); Industrial accidents (188); Labour organisations—trade unions (188); Employer and employee organisations registered under Industrial Arbitration Acts, etc. (189), Central labour organisations (190); International Labour Organisation (190).	
<i>Plates—30, Labour force participation rates (156), 31, Unemployment rates (156), 32, Working days lost—industries (186).</i>	
CHAPTER 9. SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE	191
Commonwealth Government expenditure on social security services (193); Age and invalid pensions (194), Sheltered employment allowance (196), Widows' pensions (196), Supporting parent's benefit (198), Fringe benefits (199), Funeral benefits (199), Portability of social service payment (200), Maternity allowances (200), Family allowances (200), Double orphan's pension (201), Handicapped child's allowance (201), Unemployment and sickness benefits (201), Special benefit (202), Social Security Appeals tribunals (203), Reciprocal social services agreements with other countries (203), Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (204), Compassionate allowances (204), Commonwealth Government assistance to welfare organisations (204), Commonwealth Government assistance to States (207); Children's services (208), International Year of the Child (208), Other services of the Department of Social Security (208); The role of voluntary agencies (209); Social Welfare Policy Secretariat (210); Aboriginal welfare (210); Migrant welfare—accommodation of migrants (211); Ethnic affairs and migrant settlement (211); Veterans' Affairs (212), Disability and dependants' pensions (213); Service pensions (216), Medical treatment for veterans and dependants of veterans (218), General repatriation benefits and miscellaneous (220), The Services Canteens Trust Fund (221).	
CHAPTER 10. HEALTH	223
National health services—quarantine, human, animal, and plant (225-226); Personal health services and subsidies—National health benefits (226), Medical (226), Hospital (226), Nursing home benefits (227); Health program grants (228); Federal authorities expenditure—Pharmaceutical benefits (228), Cash benefits to persons (229), Tuberculosis (229); Immunisation campaigns (229); National health services organisations (229); Commonwealth Government health advisory organisations (230); Other Commonwealth Government subsidies and grants to States (232); Commonwealth Government grants to organisations associated with public health (233); State Government activities (including	

Commonwealth Government activities in the N.T. and the A.C.T.)—Public health legislation and administration (234), Supervision and care of infant life (237), Hospitals and notifiable diseases—public and private hospitals and nursing homes (237), Repatriation hospitals (237), Hansenide hospitals (237), Mental health institutions (238); Hospital morbidity statistics (238), Notifiable diseases (238), Health-related surveys conducted by the ABS (239); Deaths—causes and perinatal (240); Cremation (242).

CHAPTER 11. LAW AND ORDER 243

Crime in Australia (245), Crime victims survey, 1975 (245), Selected crime reported to police (247), Drug offences (250), Convicted prisoners (252), Police (252), Federal Courts—High Court of Australia (253); Appeal to the Privy Council (254), Federal Court of Australia (255), Australian Industrial Court and Federal Court of Bankruptcy (255), Family Law (255), Legal aid—Australian Legal Aid Office (257); Administration of the Law—Australian Law Reform Commission (257), Administrative Appeals Tribunal (258), Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977 (258), Commonwealth Ombudsman (258), Bankruptcy (258), Patents, trade marks and designs (259); Copyright (259).

Plate—33, Number of victims of selected offences (246).

CHAPTER 12. EDUCATION 261

State and Commonwealth Government responsibilities in education (263); General characteristics of schools (263); Pre-school education (264); Primary and secondary education (264); Post-secondary education—Technical and further education (266), Colleges of advanced education (266), Universities (267), Teacher education (267); Migrant education (268); Financial assistance (268); Administrative structure of education at the national level (269); Major current issues in education —The Committee of Inquiry into Education and Training (271), Supply of and demand for teachers (271), The transition from secondary education to employment (272), Schemes introduced to assist young Australians seeking employment (272), National Inquiry into Teacher Education (273), Study leave in universities and colleges of advanced education (273), The Committee on Nurse Education and Training (273), Australian Maritime College (274), National Aboriginal Education Committee (274); Education statistics—summary tables (274), Schools (276), Technical and further education (278), Colleges of Advanced Education (281), Universities (284), Overseas students (287); Expenditure on education (288).

Plate—34, Grades in Government Schools, States and Territories (277).

CHAPTER 13. AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES 301

Sources of statistics and definitions of units (303); Structural statistics (304); Financial statistics (306); Value of agricultural commodities produced and indexes of values at constant prices and average unit values (308); Apparent consumption of foodstuffs and nutrients (311); Land tenures (313); Land utilisation in Australia (314); Crops (315); Cereal grains (316); Wheat (317), Coarse grains (322), Oats (322), Barley (323), Grain sorghum (323), Maize (324), Rice (324); Oilseeds—Linseed (325), Rapeseed (325), Safflower (325), Sunflower (325), Soybeans (325), Peanuts (325), Cotton (326); Sugar (327); Vegetables (328); Fruit (excluding grapevines) (330); Grapevines (333); Miscellaneous crops (335), Fodder crops (336), Tobacco (336), Hops (337), Mushrooms (337), Nurseries (338), Livestock (338), Cattle (339), Sheep (340), Pigs (341), Poultry (342); Meat production, slaughtering and other disposals (343), Mutton and lamb (344), Beef and veal (344), Pigmeat (344), Poultry (345), Exports of live animals (345), Consumption (346), The Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (347), Beef Industry (Incentive Payments) Act (347); Wool (347); Dairying (353); Beekeeping (357); Eggs and egg products (358); Rural improvements (358); Rural employment (362); Regulation of Australian agricultural industries (362),

Plates—35, Gross value of agricultural commodities (309), 36, Production of meat (343), 37, Sheep numbers and wool production (349), 38, Milk production and utilisation (355).

	PAGE
CHAPTER 14. FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	363
Forestry—Source of statistics (365), Objects (365), General account of forests and timbers (365), Extent of forested areas (365), Plantations (366), Administration and research (367), Employment (369), Production (370), Timber and timber products (371); Fisheries—Collection and presentation of statistics (372), Resources and their commercial exploitation (373), Administration and research (374), Boats and equipment used in fisheries (375), Employment (376), Production, processing and domestic marketing of fisheries products (376), Consumption of edible fisheries products (380), Overseas trade in fisheries products (381).	
CHAPTER 15. WATER RESOURCES	383
Water resources—geographic background (385), Surface supplies (386), Groundwater supplies (386), Drainage divisions and the use of surface and groundwaters (387), Major dams and reservoirs (389), Water quality (391), Water management (392), Research and continuing assessment (393), International aspects (394), National and interstate schemes (394), States and Territories—New South Wales (396), Victoria (397), Queensland (398), South Australia (400), Western Australia (401), Tasmania (403), Northern Territory (404), Australian Capital Territory (405). <i>Plate—39, Australia: Drainage Divisions</i> (387).	
CHAPTER 16. MINERAL INDUSTRY	407
Geology and mineral resources (409); Administration (409); Government assistance—Commonwealth Government (412), State Government (414); Research (415); International relations (416); Mineral industry statistics—Mining industry (418), Mineral production (420); Foreign control in the mining industry (425), Mineral exploration (other than for petroleum) (426); Petroleum exploration (426), Mineral processing and treatment (427); Overseas trade (428); Review of recent developments in the Australian mineral industry (431).	
CHAPTER 17. MANUFACTURING AND INTERNAL TRADE	435
Manufacturing—Introduction (437), Industry statistics—1901 to 1967–68 (441), from 1968–69 (442), Multi-establishment enterprises and single establishment manufacturing enterprises with four or more persons employed (443), Single establishment manufacturing enterprises with less than four persons employed (449), Electricity and gas establishments (449), Principal manufacturing commodities (450), Enterprise and industry concentration statistics (454), Foreign ownership and control (455); Internal trade—Wholesale trade (455), Retail trade (455).	
CHAPTER 18. ENERGY	457
Introduction (459), Advice and co-ordination (459), Resources—Black coal (460); Brown coal (461); Oil (461); Natural gas (462); Oil shale (463); Uranium (463); Thorium (464); Solar energy (465); Ocean Thermal energy (465); Wind energy (465); Wood (466); Bagasse (466); Electric power (467); Hydro-power (467), Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949 (467), Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme (468), Electricity and gas establishments (476). <i>Plate—40, The Snowy Mountains Scheme—map</i> (469).	
CHAPTER 19. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION	479
Housing—Census dwellings (481), Advances to home purchasers (492); Construction—Building (496), Construction (other than building) (499). <i>Plates—41, New Houses: Australia</i> (497); <i>42, New Other Dwellings: Australia</i> (498).	

	PAGE
CHAPTER 20. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION	501
Transport Organisations (503); Shipping—Control of shipping (505), Collection and presentation of statistics (508), Overseas shipping (510), Interstate shipping (510), Australian trading vessels (511), Harbour boards and trusts (511), Shipping at principal ports (512), Shipping cargo (513), Vessels registered in Australia (516), Miscellaneous (516); Railways—Government railways (517), Operations of government railway systems (519), Non-government railways (524); Tram, bus and ferry services—Systems in operation (524), Government and municipal tram and bus services (525); Motor vehicles—Survey of motor vehicle usage (526), Motor vehicles on register (527), Registrations of new motor vehicles (528), Drivers' and riders' licences (528); Road traffic accidents (529); Roads and bridges (530); Expenditure on roads and bridges (530); Air transport—Department of Transport (531), International activity (531), Regular air services within Australia (532), Aerodromes (534), Airway facilities (534), Air transport registrations, licences, etc., in force in Australia (534), Accidents and casualties (534); Postal, telecommunication and radiocommunication services (535), Postal and Telecommunications Department (535), Australian Postal Commission (535), Telecommunications services within Australia (539), Overseas telecommunications services (541), Radiocommunication stations authorised (543); Broadcasting and television—The Commercial Broadcasting and Television Service (543), The Public Broadcasting and Television Service (544), The Special Broadcasting Service (544), Broadcasting services (544), Television services (545).	
CHAPTER 21. PRIVATE FINANCE	547
Money-Currency (549), Volume of money (549); Financial regulation—Commonwealth legislation for economic management (550), Other Commonwealth legislation directly affecting financial institutions (551), State legislation (551); Banks—Reserve Bank of Australia (551), Trading banks (553), Savings banks (556), Development banks (557); Registered building societies—Permanent building societies (557), Terminating building societies (558); Credit unions (559); Short-term money market—Authorised money market corporations (560), Money market corporations (561); Finance companies (561); Financial corporation statistics (563); Life insurance (564); Pension and superannuation schemes—private superannuation, pension and retiring allowance schemes (567), Public authority pension and superannuation schemes (568); General insurance (570); Unit trusts, land trusts and mutual funds (571); Australian Industry Development Corporation (571); Installment credit for retail sales (572); Housing finance for owner occupation (573); New capital raisings by companies listed on Australian stock exchanges (576); Lotteries and betting—Lotteries (577), Betting (578).	
CHAPTER 22. PUBLIC FINANCE	579
Commonwealth Government Finance—provisions of the Constitution (581), Budget (581); Commonwealth authorities—general (584), receipts and outlay (586), main components of outlay (588), main components of receipts (597); State authorities—general (619), receipts and outlay (620), main components of outlay (623), main components of receipts (624); Local authorities—general (626), area, population, dwellings, rates and penalties (626), receipts and outlay (627); All public authorities—receipts and outlays (630), main components of outlay (632), main components of receipts (633); level of government (634); Public sector borrowing (636); Commonwealth Government and States: Government securities on issue (636); State and local authorities' borrowings (638). <i>Plates—43, Commonwealth Authorities, 1977-78 (585); 44, State Authorities, 1977-78 (622); 45, All Public Authorities, 1977-78 (631).</i>	
CHAPTER 23. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS	641
Description of National Income and Expenditure Accounts (643); National income and expenditure tables (646). <i>Plate—46, Articulation of Australian National Accounts (644).</i>	

CHAPTER 24. OVERSEAS TRANSACTIONS	651
Overseas trade—Constitutional provisions and legislation (653), Government authorities (655), Trade relations (655), Trade services (659), Collection and presentation of statistics (661), Overseas trade statistics (664), Classified summary of overseas trade (668), Exports of major commodities (670), Exports by industrial group (671), Direction of overseas trade (672), Ships' and aircraft stores (681), Overseas trade by State (681), Total import clearances, dutiable clearances, and customs duties collected (681), Excise (681); Foreign investment (682); Balance of payments (687); Foreign control (693); Values of exports and imports of merchandise at constant prices (694).	
<i>Plates—47, Overseas trade, 1961-62 to 1978-79 (655); 48, Value of exports and imports, proportion by country, 1974-75 to 1978-79 (667).</i>	
CHAPTER 25. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	697
Overview (699); Advice and co-ordination—Australian Science and Technology Council (699), National Energy Advisory Committee (700), Department of Science and the Environment (700), Other organisations (701), Expenditure and manpower, Project SCORE (703); Resources and services—Soil resources (714), Fauna and flora resources (714), Fauna and flora conservation (714), Environmental protection (714), Meteorology (715), Ionospheric Prediction Service (715), Scientific and Technological Information Services (715); Major government research agencies, The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (716), The Australian Atomic Energy Commission (717), The Antarctic Division, Department of Science and the Environment (717), Australian Institute of Marine Science (717), Defence Science and Technology Organisation (717); Research in private industry (718); Research in universities and colleges (719); Social science research (720); International activities (720).	
<i>Plates—49, Distribution of expenditure and manpower in the Commonwealth Government Sector, 1976-77, by objective category (707); 50, Distribution of expenditure and manpower in the Commonwealth Government sector, 1976-77, by major field of science (708); 51, Important channels of Commonwealth Government finance support for R & D (709); 52, Distribution of expenditure and manpower in the State Government sector, 1976-77, by objective category (711); 53, Distribution of expenditure and manpower in the State Government sector, 1976-77, by major field of science (712), 54, Landsat coverage of Australia (724)</i>	
<i>Special Article—Landsat satellite (722)</i>	
CHAPTER 26. CULTURE, RECREATION AND TRAVEL	725
Cultural organisations and financial assistance for the arts (727); The National Estate (729); The performing arts (731); Music (731); Film (732); Art (733); Museums (733); Literature (733); Libraries (734); Archives (736); Botanical and zoological gardens (737); Recreation—Community recreation (738), Sports development (739), Youth affairs (739); Tourism (740); Travel—Holidays (742); Internal (742), Overseas (742).	
CHAPTER 27. THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA	747
The Northern Territory—general description (749), population (750), Aboriginal affairs (751), production (752), trade, transport and communication (757), education (759), finance (761); The Australian Capital Territory—general description (763), National Capital Development Commission (763), works and services (763), production (764), commercial practices (766), transport and communication (766), social (766), tourism (768), finance (769); Norfolk Island (770); Heard Island and McDonald Islands (772); Australian Antarctic Territory (773); Cocos (Keeling) Islands (773); Christmas Island (775); Coral Sea Islands (776).	
STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1901-02 to 1978-79	777
DIARY OF PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC EVENTS, JANUARY 1979 TO DECEMBER 1979	795
LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTER CONTAINED IN PREVIOUS ISSUES	806
GENERAL INDEX	811

GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following *symbols*, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables mean:

- n.a. not available
- n.y.a. not yet available
 - nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.p. not available for separate publication (but included in totals where applicable)
- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
- r figures or series revised since previous issue
- n.e.i. not elsewhere included
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)
- m.—males; f.—females; p.—persons.

Other forms of usage

The following *abbreviations* are used for the titles of the Australian States and Territories and Australia: N.S.W. (New South Wales), Vic. (Victoria), Qld (Queensland), S.A. (South Australia), W.A. (Western Australia), Tas. (Tasmania), N.T. (Northern Territory), A.C.T. (Australian Capital Territory), Aust. (Australia).

In general, the *statistics in this volume relate to the States and Territories of Australia*, i.e. they exclude particulars of the External Territories of Australia, which, however, are specifically dealt with in Chapter 27, Territories of Australia. A few series elsewhere include particulars of Papua New Guinea because of the nature of the subject-matter; these series are indicated.

Yearly periods shown as e.g. 1978 refer to the year ended 31 December 1978; those shown as e.g. 1977-78 refer to the year ended 30 June 1978. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated. The range of years shown in table headings, e.g. 1901 to 1977-78, indicates the period covered, but does not necessarily imply that each intervening year is included.

Values are shown in Australian dollars (\$) or cents (c) unless another currency is specified.

Catalogue numbers. Throughout this book references are made to ABS publications. In each case the catalogue number is shown in brackets; this should be quoted when ordering these publications (*see below*).

Where figures have been rounded, *discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals*.

Availability of ABS publications

Information regarding the availability of ABS publications can be obtained from the Information Services Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 Australia, phone (062) 52 6627, or from other ABS offices in each capital city and in Darwin.

A complete list of ABS publications produced in Canberra and in each of the State Offices is contained in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications*, which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically—extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries may be made by contacting Information Services in the nearest ABS Office.



PREFACE

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered, subject to the Constitution, 'to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to . . . Census and statistics.' In the exercise of the power so conferred, a Census and Statistics Act was passed in 1905, and in the year following the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was created. During the late 1960s and early 1970s it became increasingly evident that new statistical legislation was required to enable the Bureau to respond to the changing needs of Government. As a consequence, the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act, 1975* was enacted in mid 1975. The Act came into operation from 3 May 1976. The legislation established the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as the central statistical authority for the Commonwealth Government, the office of the Australian Statistician and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC).

The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. This is the sixty-fourth Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government. The Year Book is the principal general reference work produced by the Central Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It provides a comprehensive and detailed statistical review of all aspects of the economy and social conditions of Australia, and in addition contains descriptive matter dealing with Australia's history, geography, physiography, climate and meteorology, government, defence and repatriation services, and international relations.

This issue contains a special article on the Landsat satellite. The article describes the application of Landsat imagery in a number of fields including hydrology and water resources, mineral resources, agriculture and forestry and has been prepared by the Department of Science and the Environment.

In the various chapters of the Year Book, and in the special index which precedes the general index, there are references to special articles, background material and items of historic interest which have appeared in previous issues.

Most of the statistics contained in this volume relate to the years ended June or December 1978 or 1979. More detailed statistics on subjects dealt with in the Year Book are available in the various annual reports published by the ABS, while more recent statistics are contained in the *Digest of Current Economic Statistics, Australia* (monthly) (1305.0), the *Monthly Summary of Statistics, Australia* (1304.0) and in other ABS publications issued monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly.

My thanks are tendered to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments and Organisations who have kindly supplied material for the preparation of the Year Book.

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